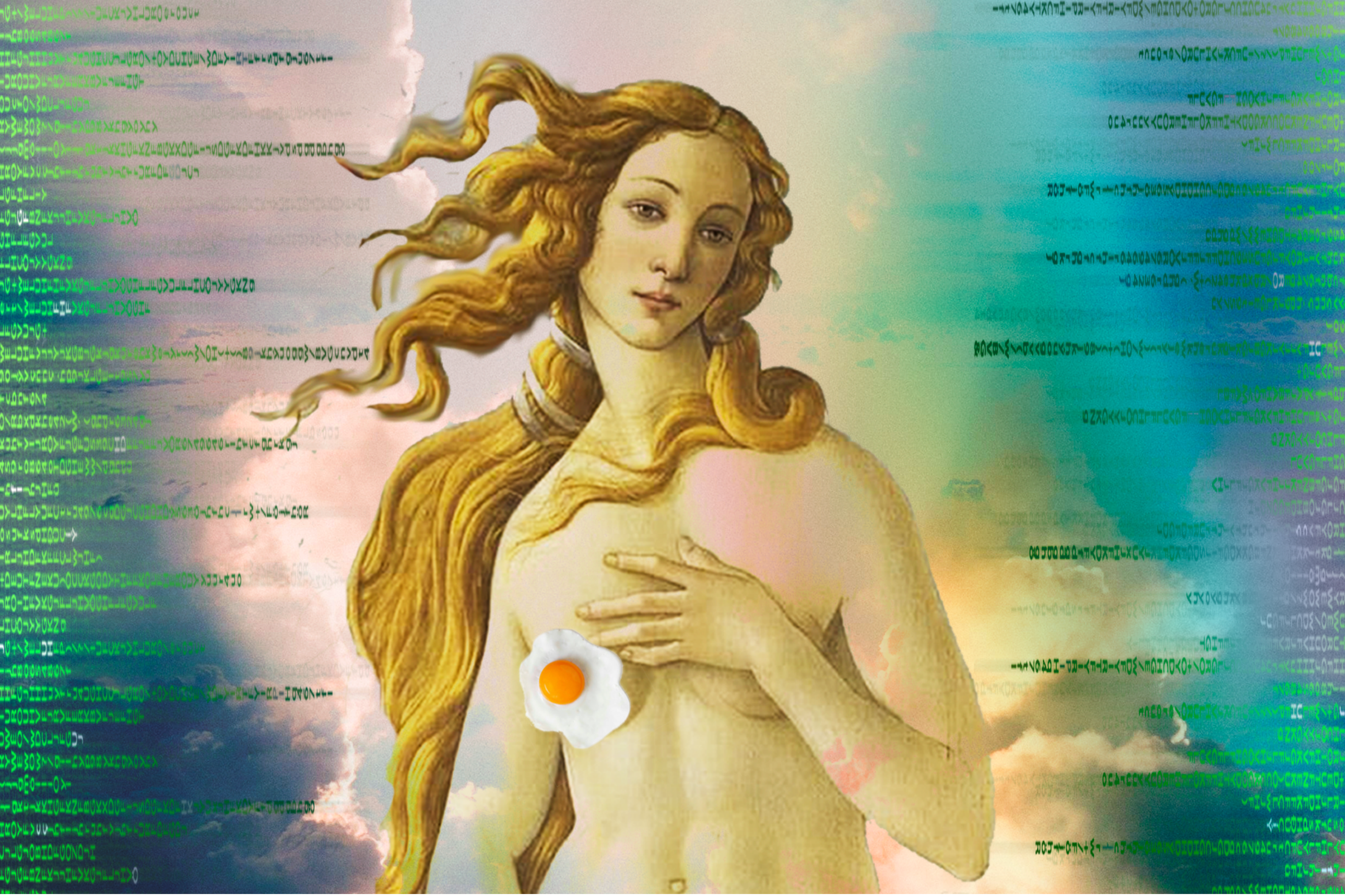
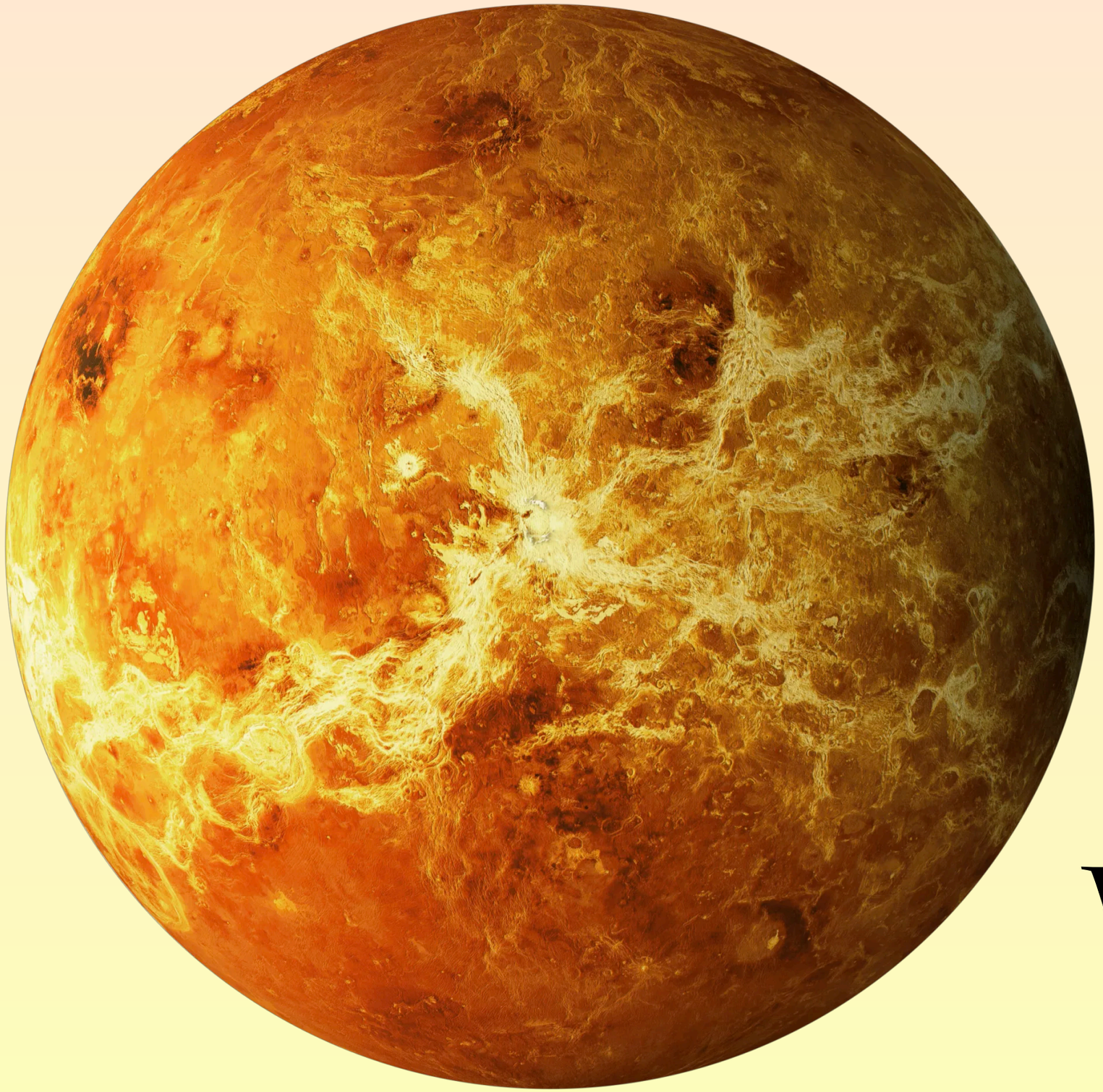


VENUS *in liminal space*

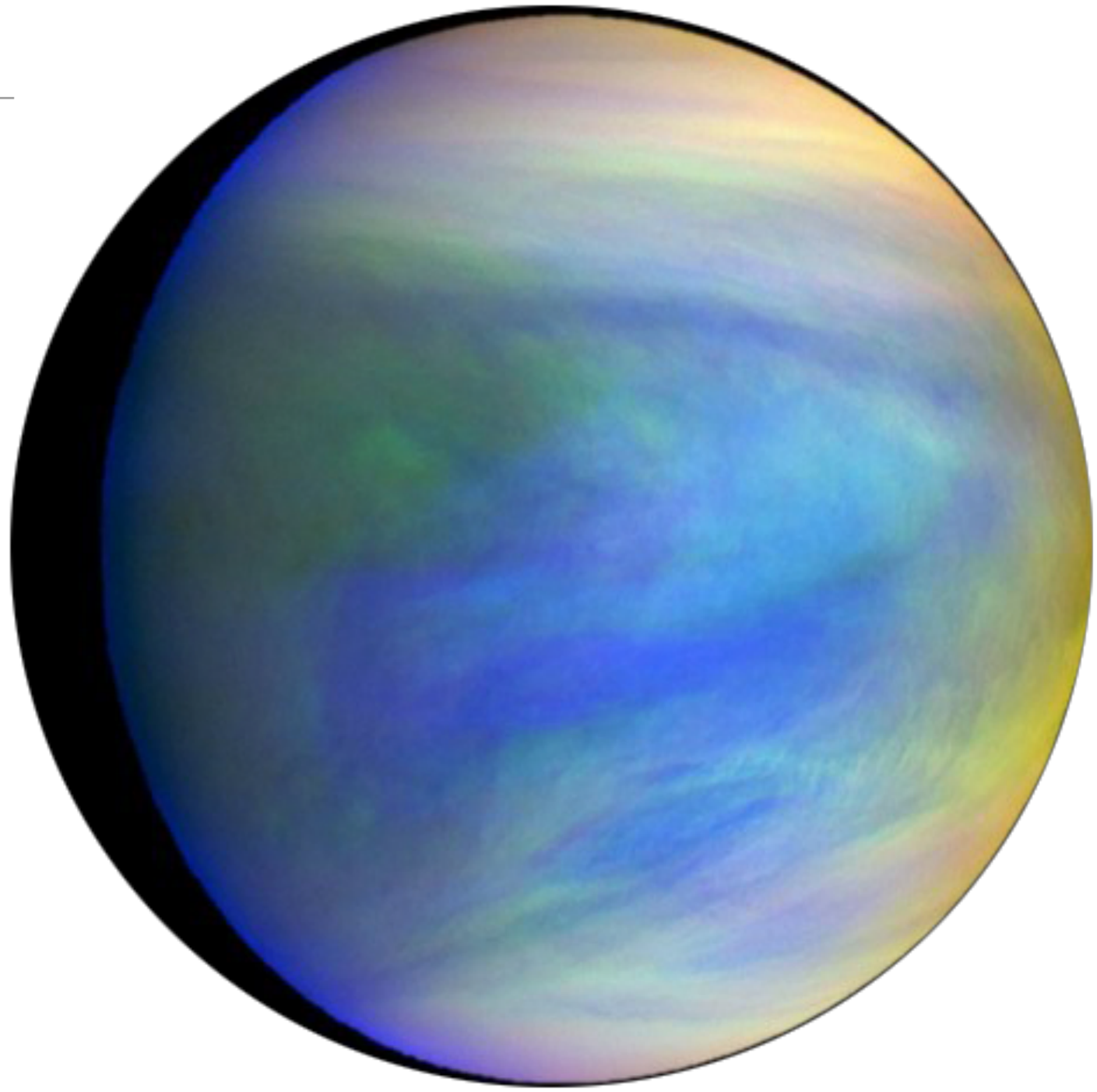


A seventeenth-century illustration of the birth of Venus entitled "Imagini Dei Dei." *Reproduced by permission of Fortean Picture Library.*

WHO IS SHE?

VENUS AS HEAVENLY BODY

- Second planet from our Sun
- Earth's Sister, nearly the same size
- one day on Venus is ~243 earth days,
- rotates on axis the opposite direction (east to west)
- retrograde motions
- five times within 8-year cycle
- 1750-1650 bce
    - table of Mesopotamian omens, Ammisaduqa (Babylonian astrology)
- Venus' dual nature (Motion seen in sky)
- Moves (relative to Sun & Earth) in a pentacle formation
- 8-Yr Pentacle Cycle

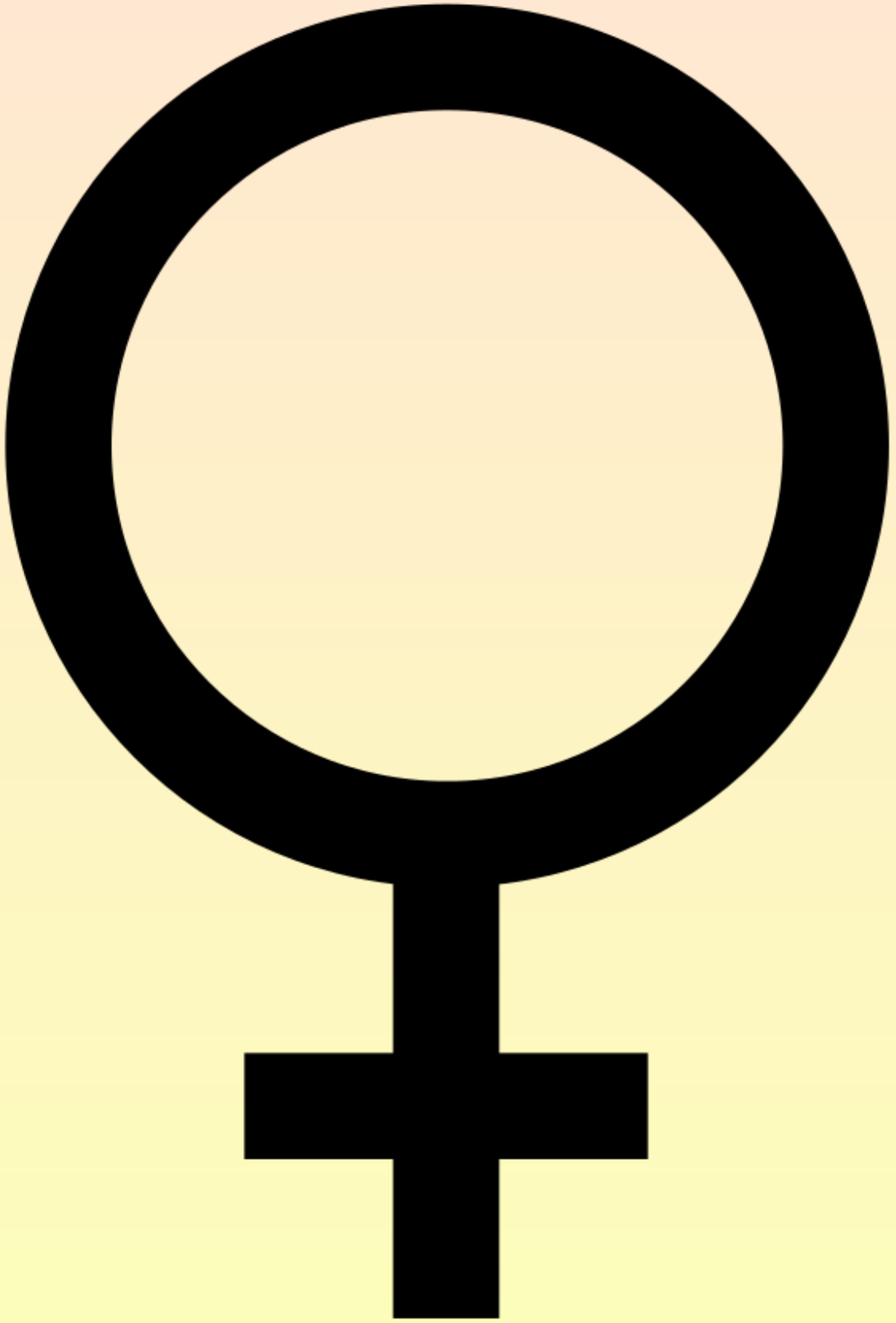


AMMISADUQA

- Babylonian tablet of Venus
- Documenting Celestial Phenomena
- ~1,700 BC
- Year 1 inferior Venus sets on Shabatu 15 and after 3 days rises on Shabatu 18
- RECORDED FOR 21 YEARS

VENUS IN ASTROLOGY

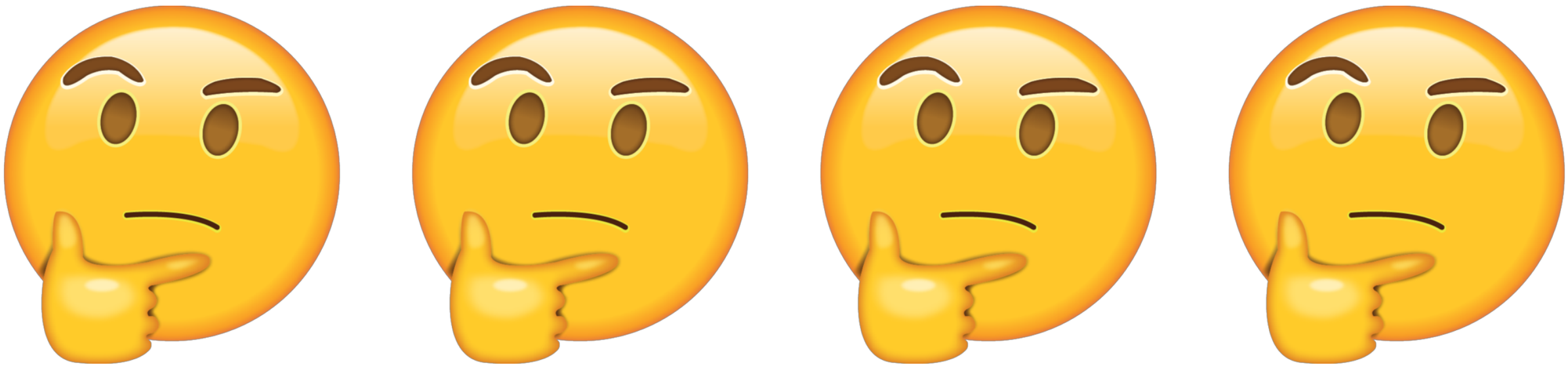
- Rules Taurus & Libra // 2nd and 7th Houses
- Exalted in pisces, Detriment in Virgo
- Associated with the veins, lumbar, kidneys
- Warm and Moist
- Pleasure, Reproduction, Love, Passion, Beauty, Grace, Charm, Aesthetics, Personal Tastes
- In natal chart, represents relationships & leisure activities



"VENUS FAVORS THE BOLD."

– OVID

IS IT A CONSTANT THEME THROUGHOUT HISTORY THAT RULERS & WRITERS OF CIVILIZATION BASE THEIR STORIES ON ISSUES THEY HAVE WITH WOMEN & THE DIVINE FEMININE IN THEIR OWN LIVES?

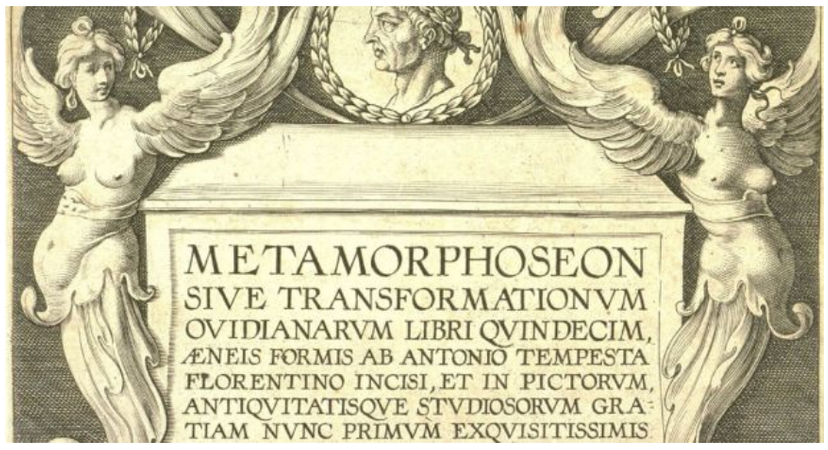


VENUSIAN ASSOCIATIONS THROUGHOUT HISTORY

- NEOLITHIC VENUS: **IMMANENT & ANDROGYNOUS**
- ENCOMPASSED THE WOMB, ENTIRE REGENERATIVE UNIVERSE
- ESSENCE SPLIT DURING BRONZE AGE: TURNED INTO *Female*
    - SON-LOVER / CONSORT (MOON AS SON)
    - NATURE / HUMAN
- *Inanna (Sumer), Ishtar (Babylon), Isis (Egypt), Aphrodite (Greece), Astarte (Canaan), Venus (Rome)*
- GODDESS OF HEAVEN, EARTH AND UNDERWORLD
    - LIFE-GIVER / DEATH BRINGER
    - LOVE & FERTILITY / DESTRUCTION & DEATH
- MADE TO DO THE KINGS BIDDING
- REDUCED INTO BEING THE GODDESS OF LOVE AND BEAUTY

Ovid's Metamorphosis

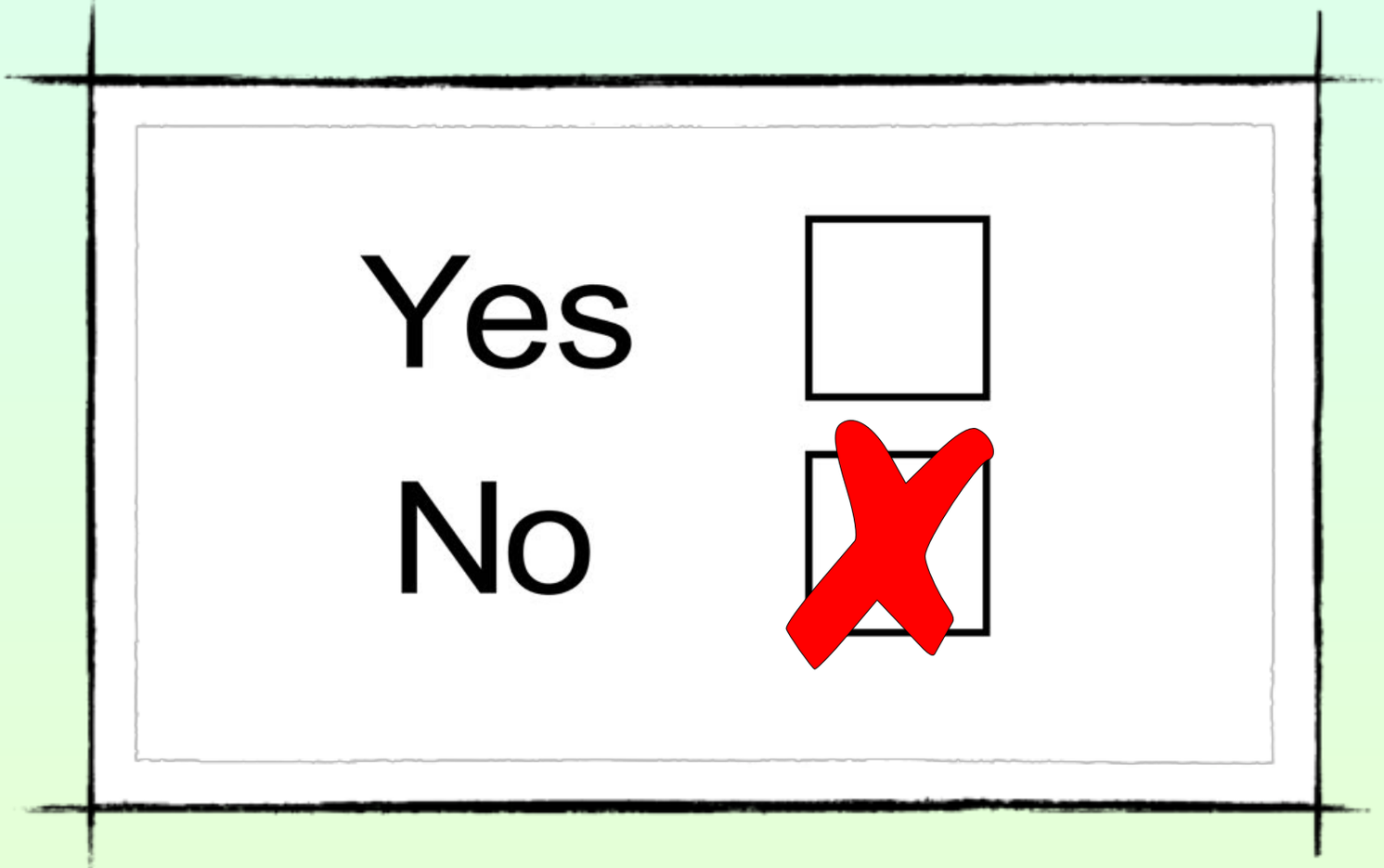
- Venus made into rapacious overlord, imperial queen
- *Libido dominandi* ~ the will to conquer
- Precious goddess melded to imperial atmosphere of Rome — god-forms as conquerors
- Associations of Augustus with Venus
- Ovid seemingly taking out his own issues with Augustus & his mistress on the goddess of love

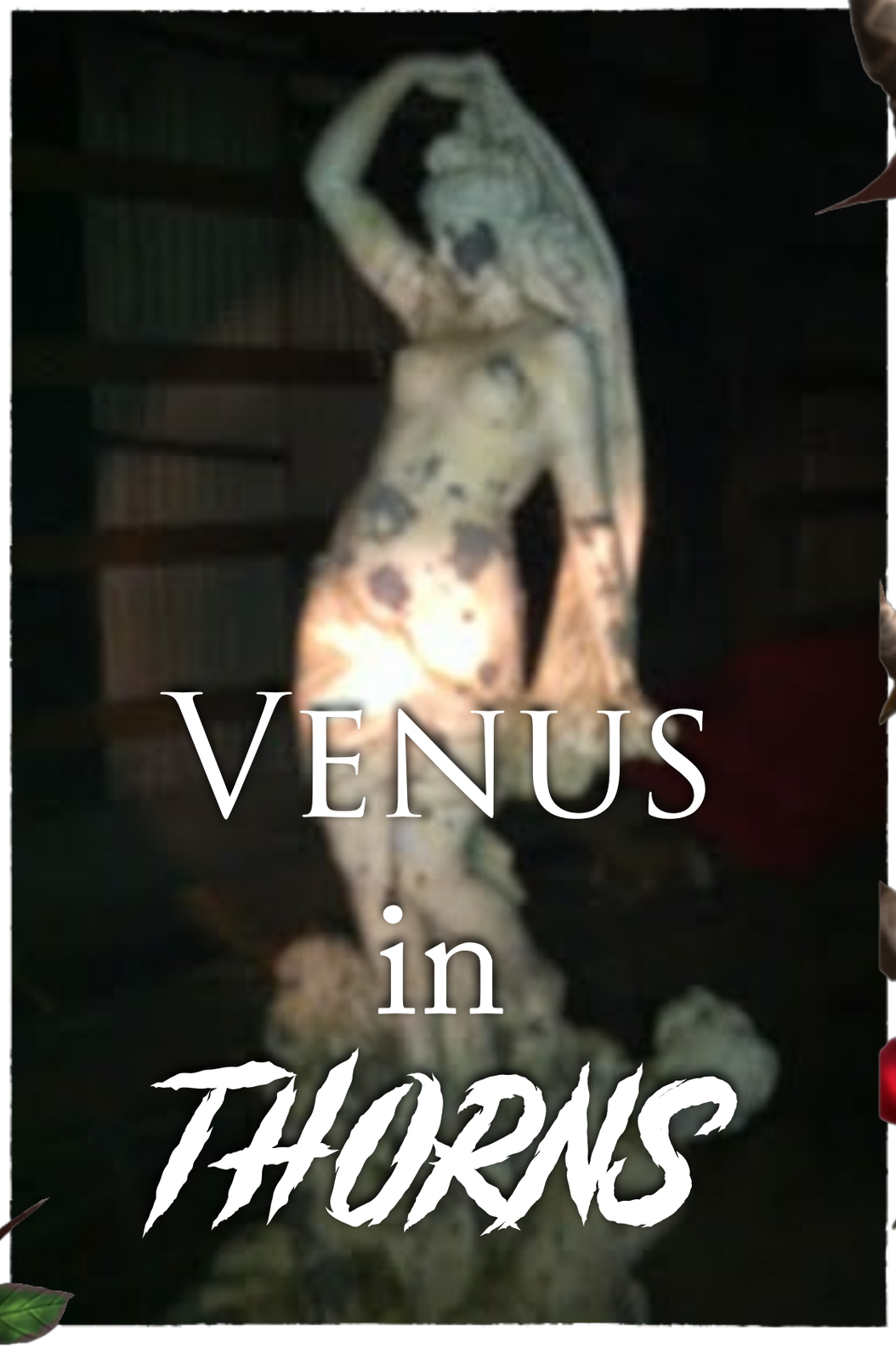


"My arms, my hands, my power, my son!" she said,
"Take up the missiles that overwhelm everyone, Cupid,
and sink your swift arrows into the heart of the god
to whom the last lot for the division of the three-fold
universe fell.
You domesticate the gods, and Jupiter himself,
and the divinities of the sea and their ruler;
why does Tartarus hold back? Why aren't you
extending
our empire? A third of the world is at stake! . . .
On behalf of our joint realm, if it means anything to
you,
join the goddess to her uncle."

- METAMORPHOSIS V

DO YOU WANT TO LET THIS DIVINE HISTORY STAY OVERWRITTEN?





VENUS in THORNS

VENUS RISING FROM THE SEA

- Built by Carol Grissom in 1838
- Probably made of Zinc
- Hit by drunk driver
- Exists currently in the DPW building down the waterfront
- Rotting
- Must be returned to sacred altar in 7th St Park
- Divine Festivals

"WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?"

– YOU

- Join the Venus Task Force
  - **Email**: venustaskforce@gmail.com
  - Stay up to date with events, projects, outreach
- Educate others about the statue
- Attend the next Common Council Meeting and voice your support

THE END